

District Dispensary at Adoor, it would be easy for the people to get the services of the midwife attached to the dispensary. A separate midwife is not necessary for the locality as prayed for in the petition. In view of the Taluk Health Organisation Scheme functioning in the State, a separate Sanitary Inspector is also not necessary for the locality.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the place referred to does not deserve the services of a midwife and if so, will it be possible for the Department to provide a midwife in a place called Kadambanad which is only six miles from Adoor.

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: There is a rule to the effect that within a distance of six miles of a hospital there should not be any additional midwifery centre. There is already a midwife attached to the Adoor Dispensary and Kadambanad I understand, is about 10 miles from Adoor. There is also a midwife appointed at Sasthancotta which is fairly an important place and six miles from the places referred to by the member.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Is it a fact that only very recently a midwife has been appointed at Sasthancotta?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (Kunnathnad cum Parur): May I know whether a midwife in the hospital will be available for the services of the public during the working hours of the hospital?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: A midwife is usually posted to a hospital to render such services during hospital hours in the hospital and at other times outside the hospital when the need arises.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether the midwife can attend to services during hospital hours in an outside area?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: That depends upon the need that arises outside.

Leper Colony, Noornad.

176. * **MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper arrangements have been made to keep the places near the Leper Colony, Noornad, in perfect hygienic condition; and

(b) whether a dispensary open to the public is proposed to be started within the Leper Colony?

DR. S. JOHN (Surgeon General): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know what proper arrangements have been made to keep the places near the Leper Colony in perfect hygienic condition.

DR. S. JOHN: All the surrounding places are kept free from wash water now. Good drinking water is pumped from a far away place and arrangements are being made for draining the surface water properly. Even now no harm is caused on account of such drainage. It is by contact leprosy spreads and not on account of water or air nearby.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know how many lepers are there in the hospital?

DR. S. JOHN: About 500.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In answer to part (b) may I know if the public are prepared to contribute half the amount for the hospital, will the Government be pleased to open a dispensary open to the public within the Leper Colony?

PRESIDENT: For what purpose?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In the Leper Colony there may be other persons who have to resort to a dispensary, and to such men a hospital will be useful.

PRESIDENT: Is that not very dangerous to the public if a dispensary is opened within the Leper Colony?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: I do not know from the technical point of view whether it is advisable to put up a dispensary; but I think there is need for that.

DR. S. JOHN: It is not at all advisable to open a dispensary within the Leper Colony because there is a possibility of mixing ordinary people with the lepers and thereby spreading the disease.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know whether there are any leper dispensaries conducted by Government other than Nooranad?

DR. S. JOHN: There are grant-in-aid hospitals for the treatment of lepers, one in South Travancore and another in the North. There are also various medicaments distributed in all the hospitals of the state for the treatment of lepers.

Cremation Ground at Vaikom.

177. ***MR. V. MADHAVAN** (*Vaikom cum Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any public cremation ground at Vaikom; and

(b) whether they know where the ownerless dead bodies are disposed of by the hospital authorities?

DR. S. JOHN: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The ownerless dead bodies removed from the Vaikom Hospital are entrusted to coolies who bury them in an island-like ground on the other side of the back-water at a distance of about 4 miles from the hospital.

MR. V. MADHAVAN: May I know whether dead bodies are thrown into the Vembanad lake?

DR. S. JOHN: No, Sir.